

Reducing Mosquitoes in Your Backyard



Worried about mosquitoes and retention ponds?

Did you know that not all standing water collects mosquitoes???

Depending on the species, mosquitoes need one of the following conditions to develop:

Shallow, non-moving water that accumulates in containers such as birdbaths, pet bowls, rain gutters, etc...

Or

Standing water in ponds that has debris and vegetation such as large weeds

Reducing mosquitoes in retention ponds

- Manage weeds; keep vegetation short around water. Adult mosquitoes are attracted to dense, tall vegetation around water.
- Remove unnecessary floating structures or debris from ponds. Mosquitoes are often found around floating debris.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts clean to allow proper drainage.
- Shape pond edges to a shelf or steep slope. Mosquitoes prefer shallow pond edges.



Take the following precautions in your backyard to help eliminate mosquitoes:

Eliminate water-trapping containers:

- Get rid of old tires that can collect water
- Place tight covers over fire barrels, rain barrels, septic tanks and anything else that can collect water

Regularly drain water-trapping containers:

- Change birdbath water every week (more frequently during summer).
- Drill drainage holes in planters, boxes and tires left or used outdoors.
- Regularly drain pet dishes and plant pot saucers.
- Regularly check and drain plastic covers and tarps used outside such as pool covers, Jacuzzi covers, garbage can lids, compost covers and gardening tarps.
- Store water-trapping containers such as wading pools, wheelbarrows and buckets upside down or inside shelters.

Fill in or landscape water-trapping areas of your yard:

- Fill in tree holes with sand or mortar, or develop drain-holes so water cannot accumulate.
- Fill or drain seepage ponds and puddles.
- Grade or fill low areas to prevent standing water.
- Check and repair leaky irrigation systems, pipes and faucets.
- To avoid puddles, do not over-water your lawn and garden.
- Regularly clean and repair gutters to prevent them from retaining water.

Questions about mosquitoes, West Nile Virus, or forming a mosquito control district in your community? Contact your local county health department or the Department of Public Health and Human Services Vector Control Program at 406-444-0273

Information in this document was provided by the Washington State Cooperative Extension at:
<http://www.snohomish.wsu.edu/mg/mosquito/reducing.doc>